Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-159. (Cancelled)

160. (Currently Amended) A method of identifying sequences capable of inducing RNA interference against a target mRNA, said method comprising:

(a) introducing a vector preparation into cells, wherein each vector of said vector preparation comprises:

(1) a target nucleic acid sequence, wherein said target nucleic acid sequence is a template for said target mRNA;

(2) a reporter nucleic acid sequence, wherein said reporter nucleic acid sequence encodes a polypeptide, and wherein said target nucleic acid sequence and said reporter nucleic acid sequence are transcribed as a single fusion mRNA;

~~(3) a weak promoter sequence operably linked to said target nucleic acid and said reporter nucleic acid; and~~

[[(4)]] (3) a promoter sequence region, wherein said promoter sequence region comprises: (i) a member of a plurality of test nucleic acid sequences, and (ii) a promoter sequence operably linked to said member in an arrangement that promotes transcription of said member;

(b) identifying at least one cell lacking said polypeptide; and

(c) obtaining the sequence of said member from said cell identified in step (b), thereby identifying said sequence as being capable of inducing RNA interference against said target mRNA.

161. (Previously presented) The method of claim 160, wherein said polypeptide is a fluorescent polypeptide.

162. (Previously presented) The method of claim 160, wherein said polypeptide is lethal to said cell.

163. (New) The method of claim 160, wherein said member is a double stranded RNA and wherein transcription is promoted by a first promoter operably linked to the sense strand of said double-stranded RNA and a second promoter operably linked to the antisense strand of said double-stranded RNA.

164. (New) The method of claim 163, wherein said first promoter has a different nucleotide sequence than said second promoter.

165. (New) The method of claim 163, wherein at least one of said first and second promoters is a weak promoter.

166. (New) The method of claim 163, wherein at least one of said first and second promoters is a U6 promoter.

167. (New) The method of claim 160, wherein said member is a stem-loop RNA and wherein transcription is promoted by a first promoter operably linked to the sense strand of said stem-loop RNA and a second promoter operably linked to the antisense strand of said stem-loop RNA or a single promoter operably linked to the sense strand or the antisense strand of said stem-loop RNA.

168. (New) The method of claim 167, wherein said first promoter has a different nucleotide sequence than said second promoter.

169. (New) The method of claim 167, wherein at least one of said first and second promoters is a weak promoter.

170. (New) The method of claim 167, wherein at least one of said first and second promoters is a U6 promoter.

171. (New) The method of claim 167, wherein said single promoter is a U6 promoter.

172. (New) The method of claim 160, wherein said cells are selected from the group consisting of kidney cells, skin cells, liver cells, neurons, muscle cells, and lymphocytes.

173. (New) The method of claim 160, wherein said vector preparation is introduced to a plurality of cells and wherein each of said plurality of cells comprises at least one of each vector of said vector preparation.

174. (New) The method of claim 173, wherein said vector preparation comprises a plurality of vectors, wherein said member of each vector of said plurality of vectors comprises a different nucleic acid sequence.